

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-14 have been rejected. Claims 1-5, 11, 12, and 14 have been canceled, and the pending claims are Claim 7, 9, and 13 all of which are currently amended. Basis for currently amended Claim 7 can be found in the specification on page 9, lines 12 and 17, page 11, lines 3-4, on page 12, lines 8-9, and on page 13, page 6-7. Basis for currently amended Claim 9 can be found on page 8, lines 4, 5, and 27, page 9, line 22, and page 10, lines 1-3, and basis for currently amended Claim 13 can be found on page 8, lines 5-16 and line 24.

Response to Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 4 and 5 are objected to under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. The cancellation of these claims renders the rejection moot.

Response to Rejection under 35 USC §102(b)

The claims have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,269,748 (Nachtamp et al.). In particular, the Examiner asserts that Nachtamp et al. teaches stable aqueous polyurethane dispersions having the instantly claimed solids and solvent content, and external surfactant. The claims, as amended, overcome the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

Nachtamp et al. teaches a prepolymer that contains chemically fixed hydrophilic groups and/or external surfactant that is reacted in the absence of water with a chain lengthening agent, which is either an azine or a hydrazone, then mixed with water to form a polyurethane solution or a dispersion. The prepolymer is prepared from the reaction of a polyisocyanate and a compound containing at least two isocyanate reactive groups such as hydroxy polyesters and polyethers. As amended, the claims relate to a polyurethane latex that contain units formed from a chain extending reagent that is not an azine or a hydrazone, and one that is stabilized essentially solely by an external surfactant. Accordingly, the claimed invention is

novel over Nachtkamp et al., which does not teach a prepolymer formed from a chain extender other than an azine or hydrazone in combination with a latex stabilized solely by an external surfactant. For this reason, Claim 7 is novel, and Claims 9 and 13, which depend from Claim 7 and are necessarily narrower in scope, are also novel.


Response to Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

The claims have also been rejected as being obvious over Nachtkamp et al. for essentially the same reasons set forth above. As amended, the claims are unobvious over Nachtkamp et al. because the reference teaches to use only azines and hydrazones as chain-lengthening agent, while Applicants' claims are restricted to a polyurethane latex that contains units formed from water, alcohol monoamines, and diamines. Since Nachtkamp et al. does not teach or suggest any other chain-lengthening reagent, Applicants' claimed latex is unobvious over Nachtkamp et al. For this reason, Claim 7 is patentable over Nachtkamp et al. Claims 9 and 13, which depend from Claim 7 are necessarily narrower in scope and, therefore, also patentable. Claim 13 is patentable for the additional reason that Nachtkamp et al. specifically disclaims water as a chain extender. (See column 3, lines 33-35.)

Conclusions

For the above-stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be granted for Claims 7, 9, and 13.

Respectfully submitted,



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